

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

JUSE-00 MC-02 IO-13 SCA-01 SCS-03 VO-03 PPT-02 INSE-00

FBIE-00 SY-10 NEA-10 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /139 W

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R 301330Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4965

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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REF: DUBLIN 812, 1121

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PBOR/EI

SUBJ: IRA FUND-RAISING IN US

SUMMARY: GOI BELIEVES THAT FUND-RAISING BY PROVISIONAL IRA IN US HAS CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE IN IRELAND. THIS CABLE RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON-LONDON-DUBLIN COOPERATION AIMED AT PREPARING LIST OF IRISH AND BRITISH CITIZENS LIKELY TO SOLICIT FUNDS IN US. PERSONS ON LIST WOULD THEN BE CAREFULLY SCREENED WHEN THEY APPLY FOR VISAS OR FOR ENTRY INTO US.
END SUMMARY

1. AS DEPT IS AWARE FROM REFTELS, FONMIN FITZGERALD HAS BEEN QUITE SPECIFIC IN HIS COMPLAINTS REGARDING ALLEGED FUND-RAISING IN US FOR PROVISIONAL IRA WEAPONS AND RELATED CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE. FONMIN ATTITUDE PERHAPS BEST EXPRESSED IN HIS QUESTION ADDRESSED TO VISITING CONGRESSMAN AND EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER: "HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF WE WERE PERMITTING RAISING AND TRANSMITTAL OF FUNDS IN IRELAND FOR SUPPORT OF BLACK PANTHER VIOLENCE?"
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NCE?" WE UNDERSTAND THAT FONMIN FEELS SO STRONGLY THAT HE IS NOW

CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF MAKING SPEECHES ON SUBJECT TO IRISH-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS DURING HIS VISIT TO US OPENING OF UNGA.

2. PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF GOI CONCERN WITH REGARD TO FUND-RAISING IN US IS IRISH NORTHERN AID COMMITTEE (NORAI) AND AFFILIATED GROUPS. GOI SPOKESMEN HAVE REPEATEDLY URGED AMERICANS WHO DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO AVOID GIFTS TO THIS GROUP AND INSTEAD MAKE THEM TO CHURCH GROUPS AND RED CROSS, WHO WOULD PUT FUNDS TO NON-VIOLENT USES. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE INFO AS TO MAGNITUDE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO NORAI, EXCEPT FOR ONE RECENT NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT (DUBLIN 1121). NEITHER DO WE KNOW WHAT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND CHANNELS, IF ANY, MAY BE IN USE IN US TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR IRA VIOLENCE.

3. 1973 "IRELAND EUROPARA" GIVES FOLLOWING POLICY GUIDANCE: "WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REFUSE VISAS TO PERSONS WHO ARE KNOWN OR SUSPECTED TO BE GOING TO THE US TO RAISE MONEY FOR TERRORIST GROUPS." SOME PROSPECTIVE SPEAKERS HAVE IN FACT BEEN BARRED FROM ENTERING US: JOE CAHILL, BOTH DRUMMS, AND SEAN KEENAN. OTHERS, UNFORTUNATELY, HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CARRYING OUT SPEAKING TOURS. WE LEARNED FROM "IRISH PRESS" AUG 20 THAT RUAIRI O BRADAIGH HAS RECENTLY BEEN MAKING FUND-RAISING SPEECHES. WE WERE NOT EVEN AWARE THAT HE HAD VISA, THOUGH HE MAY WELL HAVE OBTAINED ONE IN YEARS PAST WHICH IS STILL VALID.

4. IF IN FACT SUBSTANTIAL SUMS ARE BEING RAISED IN US FOR USE BY IRA, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY LEGITIMATE EFFORT TO PREVENT FUND-RAISERS FROM TRAVELING TO US. IF USG LACKS DETAILED INFO ON PROBLEM, THEN WE FEEL WE SHOULD ACCEPT THE GOI BELIEF THAT IRISH-AMERICAN FUNDS ARE A MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION TO VIOLENCE IN IRELAND. EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONSIDERING ACTION THAT MAY BE USEFUL IN THIS LIGHT. IN THIS MESSAGE, WE SUGGEST SETTING IN MOTION TIGHTER CONTROLS FOR PROVO SPEAKERS TRYING TO VISIT US.

5. TWO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES HAVE ARISEN IN ATTEMPTS TO COPE WITH THESE FUND-RAISERS.

A) FIRST, THEY ARE OFTEN DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY. IRA IS AN UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION. MANY MEMBERS OF THE OLD IRA ARE PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY. EVEN ACTIVE MEMBERS OF BOTH WINGS OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENT IRA OFTEN HAVE RESPECTABLE JOBS AND CAN EASILY GET NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS. SOME APPARENTLY OBTAINED VISAS BEFORE CURRENT WAVE OF VIOLENCE RAISED QUESTION OF EXCLUSION FROM US.

B) SECOND, ANY INDISCRIMINATE EXCLUSION OF SUSPECTED IRA AND/OR SINN FEIN MEMBERS WOULD BE BLUNT INSTRUMENT THAT MIGHT IRRITATE MANY PEOPLE BOTH IN IRELAND AND US, INCLUDING THOSE WHO DISAPPROVE OF CURRENT VIOLENCE. WE WOULD RISK MERELY EARNING MORE SYMPATHY FOR PROVOS.

6. ACTION RECOMMENDED: WE SUGGEST TWO STEPS:

A) DEPT MIGHT ASK OTHER USG AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY JUSTICE, FOR INFO ON IRISH AND BRITISH CITIZENS WHO HAVE HELPED NORAIID AND ITS AFFILIATES TO RAISE FUNDS. RUAIRI O BRADAIGH IS CASE IN POINT, BUT THERE MUST BE OTHERS, AND RECURRING VISITS MAY BE INVOLVED.

B) EMBASSIES LONDON AND DUBLIN MIGHT APPROACH HOST GOVTS AND ASK FOR THEIR IDEAS OF PERSONS WHOM WE SHOULD SCREEN FOR VISA ELIGIBILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT OF VIOLENCE. WE MIGHT INDICATE THAT WE HOPE FOR FAIRLY SMALL, DISCRIMINATING, AND REALISTIC LIST, NOTING PROBLEM OF PUBLIC OPINION THAT WOULD ARISE IF WE EXCLUDED LEGITIMATE VISITORS.

7. ONCE THERE IS ACCURATE LIST OF NAMES, THEY WOULD BE ENTERED IN VISA LOOKOUT SYSTEM AS "PRESUMED INELIGIBLES" UNDER 212(A) 28F II AND IV OR 212(A)27. THEN ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, EMBASSIES WOULD REFER NEW VISA APPLICATIONS TO DEPT FOR ADVISORY OPINION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS AND PREPARE REVOCATION OF KNOWN EXISTING VISAS. INS WOULD BE ALERTED ALSO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973DUBLIN01170
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973086/aaaaaefz.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DUBLIN 812, 1121
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005